

# Today not Easter for all churches

1 s APR 7 1985  
By Charles J. Maloof  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

As Western churches celebrate Easter Sunday today, Palm Sunday is being observed by the Orthodox Eastern Church, including parishioners at St. George Orthodox Church, 1900 S. Fourth St.

The difference originated during the 16th century when the Western system of Easter was inaugurated, the Rev. Daniel Rohan, pastor at St. George Church, said.

In 325 A.D., the first Ecumenical Council of the Orthodox Church met in Nicea, Cyprus, and declared that the resurrection of Jesus Christ must be celebrated following the Jewish Passover, Rohan explained. Easter would then be observed on the Sunday following the first full moon of the spring equinox, with Palm Sunday occurring the previous week.

"Palm Sunday announces the meaning of victory as the triumph of the kingdom of God, and the acceptance by the world of its only King, Jesus Christ," Rohan said. "His solemn entrance into the holy city was the only visible triumph for Christ because he consistently rejected all attempts to glorify himself.

"During the Palm Sunday Orthodox liturgy, the faithful will hold palm branches that were used to greet the King by the people of Jerusalem."

A procession of the Sunday School children carrying palms will follow today's 10:30 a.m. liturgy, the pastor said. A Lenten dinner, sponsored by the Sunday School department, will follow in the Social Center.

Also today, Holy Week services begin and will continue until the



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**Messiah acclaimed:** The Rev. Daniel Rohan decorates a sacred painting of Jesus Christ with palms for today's Palm Sunday service in St. George Orthodox Church, 1900 S. Fourth St.

Easter observance next Sunday. At 7 p.m. today, Monday and Tuesday, Bridegroom services are scheduled. Wednesday at 7 p.m., the Holy Unction service will take place.

A Holy Thursday service at 10:30 a.m. will feature the St. Basil liturgy, with a 7 p.m. service featuring the Passion Gospels.

A Holy Friday service at 10 a.m. will be followed at 3 p.m. by the "Taking Down From the Cross" service and a lamentation service at 7 p.m.

Two services on Holy Saturday include a 9:30 a.m. liturgy and 10:30 p.m. resurrection service.

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ST. GEORGE CHURCH - ORTHODOX

# Orthodox to celebrate Easter Sunday today

Churches (W.V.)  
T s APR 1 4 1985

"Christ is Risen, Indeed, He is Risen," Orthodox Christians at St. George Church, 1900 S. Fourth St., and worldwide, proclaim today in observance of Easter Sunday.

The Orthodox Church calculates the date of Easter according to decisions by the church's first Ecumenical Council meeting in 325 A.D., according to the Rev. Daniel Rohan.

Council members determined that the feast of the resurrection must be celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon of the vernal equinox. If the full moon occurs on a Sunday, Easter is then the following Sunday.

Also, the resurrection must always be celebrated after the Jewish Passover, the pastor said, to insure the proper historical sequence of events as recorded in Holy Scripture.

Western church officials determined their system of Easter in 1582 A.D. On occasion, both Easters are observed on the same Sunday.

St. George worshippers, with lighted candles, formed a procession outside of the church

entrance at midnight on Saturday.

"The Easter procession is significant of the original baptismal procession which brought newly baptized Christians from darkness of paganism to the light of Christ," Rohan said. "It's an expression of the believer's own personal passover from the darkness of sin to the light and life of the Kingdom of God."

The gospel lesson was read which tells of the empty tomb of Christ as those in the procession acclaimed that "Christ is Risen, Indeed, He is Risen."

Following a return inside the church, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated and the faithful received the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Vespers at 4 p.m. today will feature the Holy Gospel read in several different languages, Rohan said, to "symbolize that the message of the resurrection is proclaimed unto the four corners of the earth."

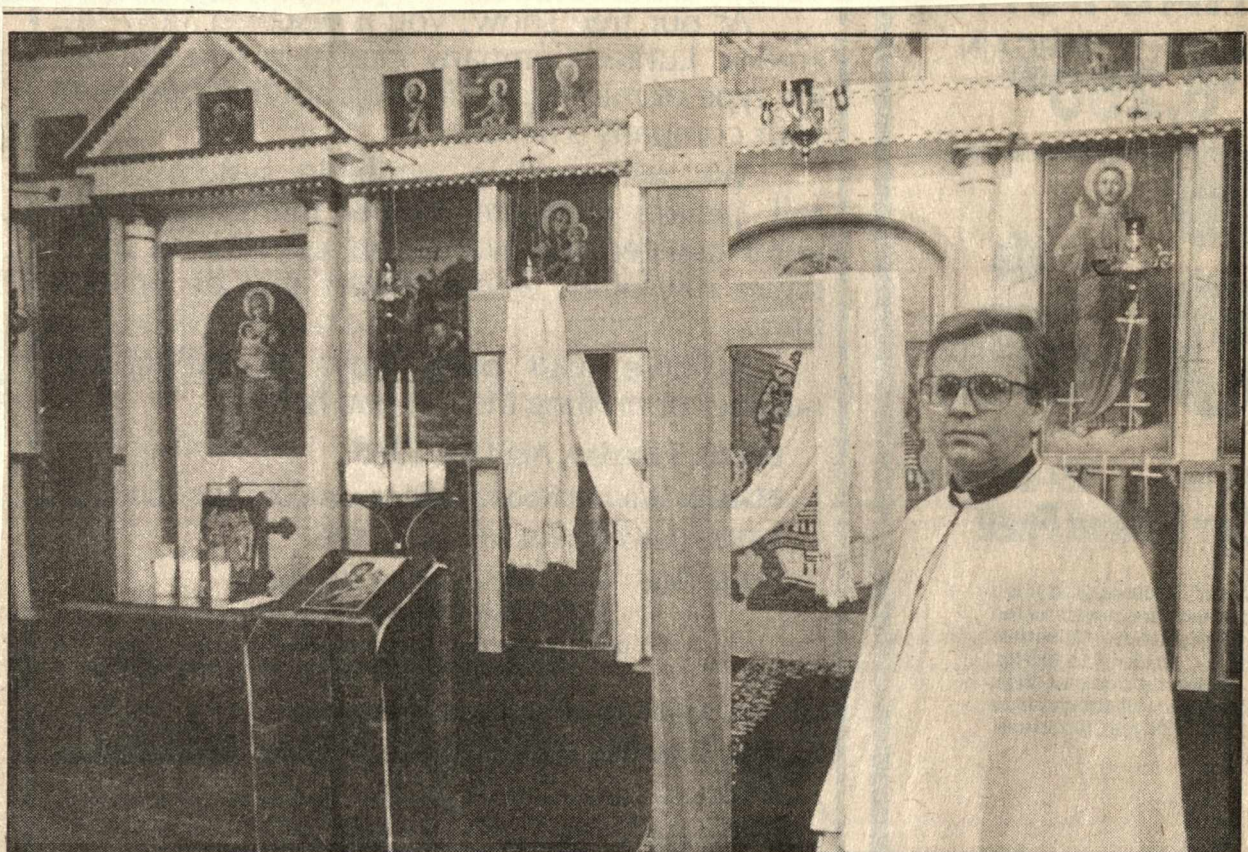
An open house at the pastor's home will follow the Agape service for parishoners and friends of the church.

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## Resurrection celebrated

Easter is being celebrated by Orthodox Christians worldwide today in honor of the risen

Saviour, including 80 families of St. George Church and its pastor the Rev. Daniel Rohan.